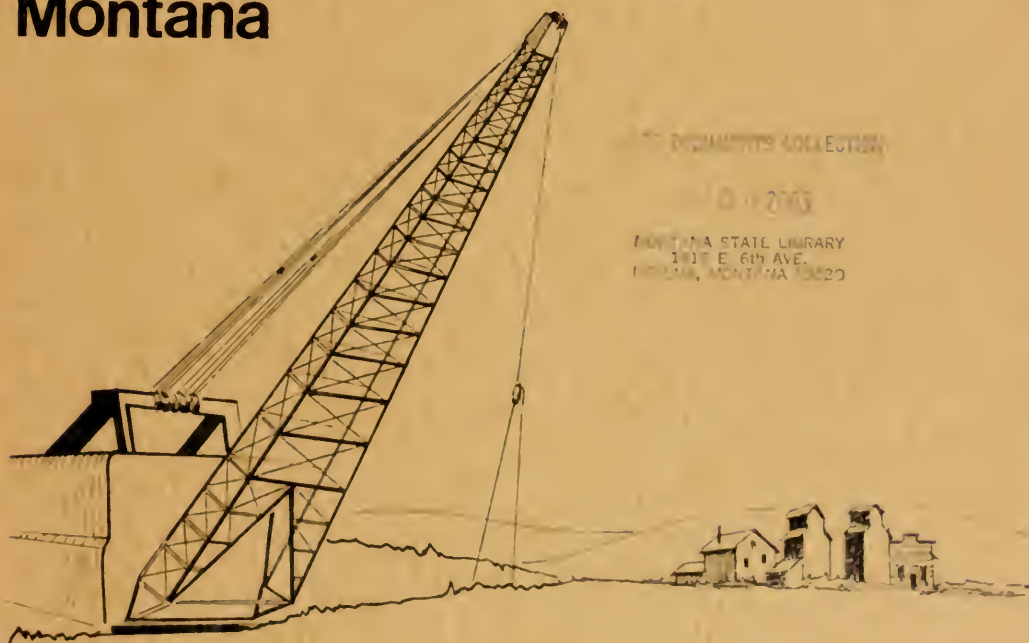


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COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT COAL IMPACT AREAS Montana



Prepared for
MONTANA COAL BOARD
Prepared by
LARSEN & ASSOCIATES
Billings, Montana

GENERAL OVERVIEW

GENERAL OVERVIEW

In October 1979, Larsen & Associates, hereafter referred to as the Consultant, contracted with the Montana Coal Board to make an assessment of community needs in areas impacted as a consequence of large-scale development of coal mines and coal-using energy complexes. This assessment was to analyze the type and extent of assistance either desired and/or needed by the communities. In addition to the counties of Big Horn, Rosebud and Treasure, designated by the Department of Community Affairs as having coal development impact, the Coal Board requested a review of Custer and Powder River counties. Further, the communities of Bear Creek, Red Lodge, Laurel, Roundup, Miles City and Broadus were requested to be reviewed. The "work product" as stated in the Coal Board Contract, "will contain an analysis and recommendation as to regular administrative services to be supplied to impacted communities."

Inquiries were made of local officials concerning operational problems, local priorities for facility needs and their projections, planning, available information from which to make decisions, and whether or not field assistance from the Coal Board, or any other State Agency would be desired. If field assistance was desired, is it currently available from existing state programs? Additionally, visits with ranchers, railroaders, businessmen, laborers, craftsmen, waitresses, motel operators, miners, planning and engineering consultants working in the area and a few students were helpful in gaining insight as to the concerns and problems in the aforementioned communities.

The initial impression received when traveling through coal impacted areas is one of mixed reactions. You know something is going on but you cannot immediately put your finger precisely upon the object of your search. Activity surrounds some of the areas during the day while other communities see their impacts in the evening. Organized processes to address massive impact challenges are evident in some communities, while in other areas their problems appear to be overwhelming.

THUS THE MANY FACES OF COAL IMPACT

Many outstanding efforts are visible in some communities with people joining together to meet the demands created by the influx of people and their need for municipal services. However, the lack of co-operative efforts in a few communities have led to some serious local problems. Further, some local officials have not fully identified the total scope of the initial impact upon their jurisdiction nor have they fully grasped their priorities. This has created a situation where continual return to the Coal Board with incomplete data has compromised the deep and very real sincerity of the people trying to resolve serious and difficult challenges.

Conversely, Colstrip is a good example of total advance planning put into practice. Yet Colstrip developers recognize a deep need to have close liaison with the various State agencies to mutually resolve its great development problems and eventual incorporation.

If there is one general thread of consistency with nearly all units of government in the impacted areas, it is "can you help us?" This desire for assistance includes: that unit who merely wants to be kept fully informed as to coal development and the ramifications of its

impact in order to facilitate their own local planning; the several communities who desire help to identify the full scope of service needs; and the communities desiring help in their day-to-day operations that could lessen the heavy burden upon them and assist them to be more cost effective in their programs and in finding alternative solutions to meet coal impact.

A general assessment of the latter leads the Consultant to conclude that in most cases resources can be found to help, but the people involved need experienced guidance in their affairs to take full advantage of their resources. The abilities to solve their problems are generally within existing personnel and with regular field assistance they could find the needed direction to bring the full resources of private industry, State and Federal governments to bear upon the more critical challenges facing an entire section of the State of Montana.

Many State agencies have resources available to help solve the impact problems that are facing these communities. However, these resources are not being used and deployed to aid the communities to the extent needed to meet the actual field demand. The periodic help in identifying financial resources and "how to apply" for grants, etc. is vital and appreciated. The help in practical day-to-day operations, however, which is desperately needed by many of the impacted communities is not available. With a "circuit rider" available for the State agencies to work with and one who is familiar with community administrative and operational needs, considerable reduction of duplicative trips or services can be accomplished. Even more important, the development of co-ordinated programs "in the field" will make these same State agency

services more cost effective and allow them to function in the areas where they have the expertise and are needed most.

At the same time, having a "circuit rider" who has local operational experience, available for the individual communities would provide:

- 1) regular assistance to the impacted areas for need analysis and development of methods to be more cost effective in their services. This will enable the communities to better address their own problems without total reliance upon Coal Board resources;
- 2) experienced assistance available to address general municipal administrative and operational affairs;
- 3) day-to-day assistance that will establish a basis for meeting their long term impact needs. This type of assistance should include provisions for internal training for local officials to address their own problems;
- 4) assistance in the identification and pursuit of alternative financial resources available to communities that should assure the Coal Board that such processes have been followed locally;
- 5) a communication mechanism to share each other's solutions to similar problems and thus lessen the chance of "re-inventing the wheel"; and
- 6) a guard against "over-building" and/or "over-extending" of facilities.

Many of the above services can be currently found in the job intent or job descriptions within several State agencies. However, these jobs are not being performed in the field. A "circuit rider" would provide the Coal Board and other State agencies with the field management expertise necessary to address the operation problems of the impacted areas. Potentially unnecessary expenses to the State and to the communities could be avoided.

Notwithstanding any of the aforementioned advantages, there is one basic desire and need "in the field" that will not be met with a

Circuit Rider. That basic need is for the Coal Board to continue to have their meetings in the impacted areas of the State in lieu of Helena. There is no substitute for this. No mechanism can be established that would have a greater impact upon problem solving than the actual "hands-on" field experience for members of the Coal Board. I would suggest that at least one half day be set aside, more if possible, to tour the local areas. This could include visiting two or three jurisdictions each meeting date prior to regular Board meetings. These visitations have helped the Coal Board in the past and in each instance the community has felt such a visit has been beneficial.

There are several ground rules that should be established if the Coal Board desires to make this investment into the future operational soundness of the impacted communities of this State:

- 1) The Circuit Rider should not be expected to be a "spokesman" for the Coal Board nor for the community, but should be considered a professional resource provided by the Coal Board for the community to draw upon;
- 2) The Circuit Rider should not be expected to be a grantsman, planner or engineer for the communities, but aid in establishing specifications as a basis for the retention for each when needed;
- 3) The Circuit Rider should be expected to be available when unforeseen problems arise and direct the community to the applicable resource for its resolve;
- 4) The Circuit Rider should be expected to recommend follow-up programs to aid the communities impacted by coal development;
- 5) The Circuit Rider should be expected to propose to the Coal Board future legislative considerations if deemed appropriate;
- 6) The Circuit Rider should be retained for an adequate period of time to address the goals established by the

Coal Board to be accomplished through the community assistance program. This program should establish a basis for the future relationship among communities in coal impacted areas of Montana. How the problems are collectively addressed here may well set the pattern for other programs of the State.

The following pages of this Community Assessment give a more complete understanding of the desires, needs and current abilities of the communities to cope with coal impact. In summary, the overall assessment includes:

- 1) The communities in the coal impacted area DESIRE "in-field" assistance from the State;
- 2) The communities NEED "in-field" assistance to address the monumental challenges resulting from coal development and its impact on day-to-day operations;
- 3) The several State agencies having community assistance resources available to them are not providing this assistance in the field in adequate amounts to address the real and critical impact problems;
- 4) The Coal Board and other State agencies would benefit from a Circuit Rider familiar with administrative and operational techniques assisting in the coal impact areas of Montana;
- 5) The establishment of a Circuit Rider would be a sound investment of Coal Board resources that will return great dividends to the communities in more efficient operations and to the Coal Board in assuring that the communities are able to cope with coal impact;
- 6) The extent of in-field assistance and the units of government initially recommended to be involved are summarized at the conclusion of this report. For those units where no immediate in-field assistance is recommended to be funded by the Coal Board at this time, a follow up analysis is suggested at least each six months to keep the Coal Board current in its evaluation of changing field conditions.

The declared aim of the Governor, the departments of Community Affairs, Health and Environmental Sciences, Highways and others,

has been to provide assistance to local governments of Montana. However, several smaller outlying communities have expressed their concern over what they feel is inadequate field assistance from State agencies. It is my opinion that there is some validity to their concern. It should be noted, however, that not all the communities need assistance from the Department of Highways, or the Department of Health, or the Department of Community Affairs. What they need is assistance from someone in some agency who has had local government administrative and operational experience.

Therefore, I recommend that the Coal Board enter into a "Circuit Rider" program of professional administrative assistance to the listed communities in this report and in the amounts of time specified. The initial funding of this program be from Coal Board resources for the first eighteen (18) months, January 1980 through June 30, 1981. During the last six months of the initial funded period, the individual units of government receiving assistance should evaluate the program and, with the Coal Board, determine future funding sources. This will enable each unit of government to determine if within their own budgets, they have the ability to carry a part of the future funding. Fiscal years for local governments run from July 1 to June 30, although budgets may not, in all cases, be adopted until late August.

Additionally, during this initial period, the Coal Board and the Legislative Oversight Committee will have the opportunity to review the merits and impact of the Circuit Rider program. This will also enable both groups, in concert with the individual communities, to identify future legislative action necessary to assist coal impact areas of

Montana. Further, the Department of Community Affairs will have the opportunity to evaluate the merits of a full community assistance program that could be utilized in other areas of Montana where local resources are scarce.

INDIVIDUAL
COUNTY AND COMMUNITY
ASSESSMENT



y, Montana



INDIAN STRIPPING COAL EXPOSURE

SURFACE MINE

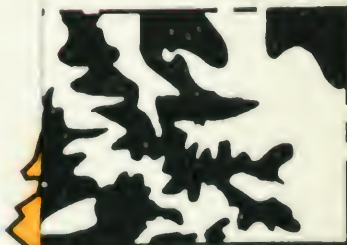
UNDERGROUND MINE

INDIAN RESERVATION

- 1 WESTMIRELAND RESERVE
LARRY CREEK MINE
- 2 JEFFERSON MINE
- 3 SPRING CREEK MINE



NORTH

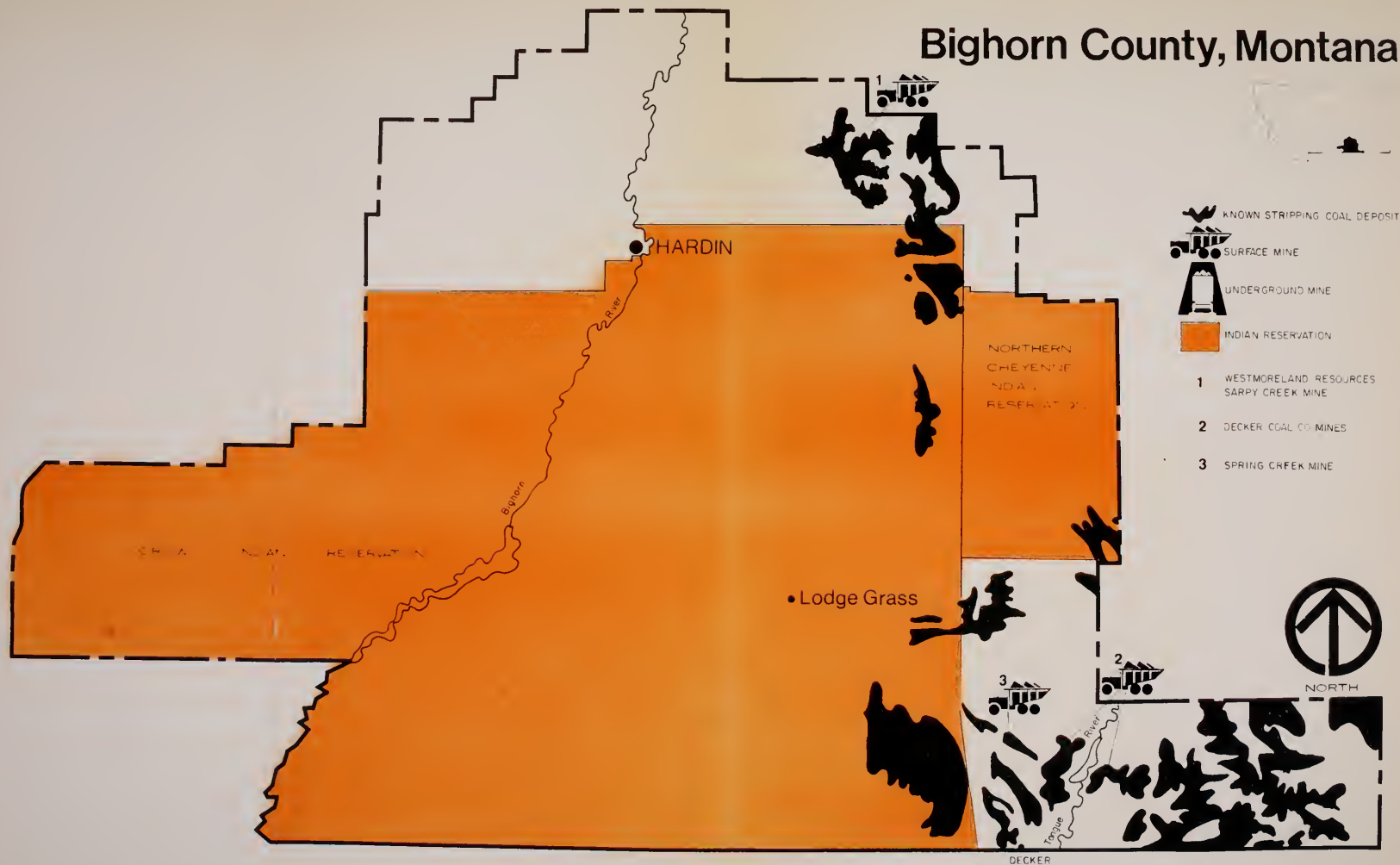


B I G H O R N C O U N T Y

Big Horn County has a very diverse and difficult problem to wrestle with. Some impact has already been quite evident and as the southern end of the County further develops its own communities, considerable regular and frequent assistance will be necessary. In addition to the "off-reservation" mining developments, vast deposits of coal on the Crow Indian Reservation are pending some phase of development. A continuing close liaison with the Montana Coal Board certainly is desirable, however, total county problems should be considered including arterial road systems, access roads, housing, recreation, schools, utility extension and other social impacts.

Close coordination has been evident in the setting of joint goals involving Hardin, Lodge Grass, local schools and the county. The Big Horn County Comprehensive Plan is in the process of being updated which will provide a good basis for meeting the future. It is evident that all units of government in Big Horn County, in the past, have been working closely in addressing coal impact. Much of the socio-economic impact in the southern portions of the county acknowledgedly has been directed to the Ranchester-Sheridan, Wyoming area, however, with the development of the Spring Creek community, it is designed to show the impact upon our neighboring state.

Bighorn County, Montana



B I G H O R N C O U N T Y

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H A R D I N

One of the more basic concerns evident in Hardin is the concern over adequate tax base to do much of the needed work on their own. Coupled with this concern is a desire for timely and adequate assistance in the planning of the size and scope of individual projects. Hardin has a good grasp on their service needs and priorities. Local priority setting has been done well but the city would like to have a closer relationship with the Coal Board on a continuing basis.

This latter request is also expressed by the Hardin schools as a mechanism to assist the cities and the county on a more timely basis. A desire is further expressed that the Coal Board set down a criteria for local expectations and standards.

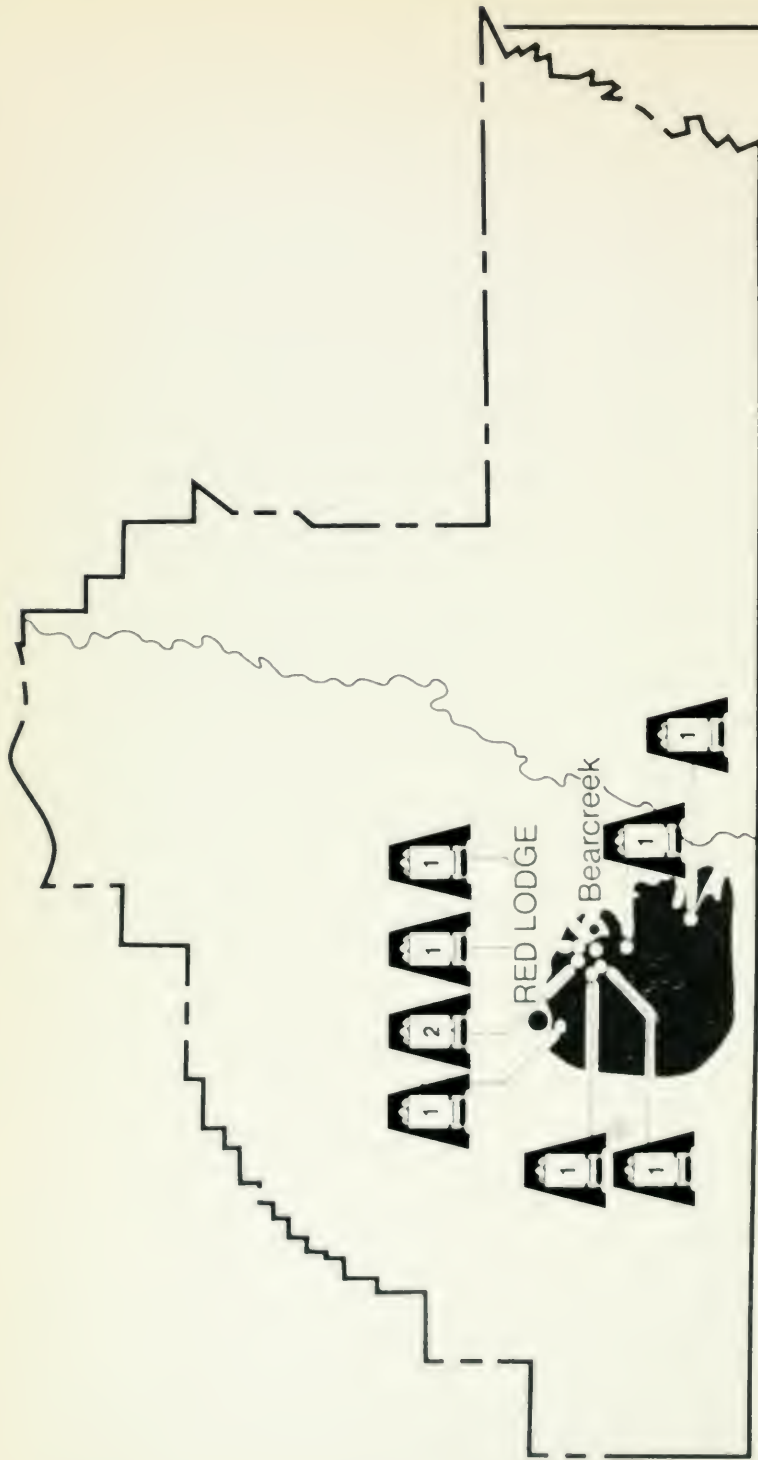
L O D G E G R A S S

Many of the Lodge Grass needs are identified through close liaison with Big Horn County Planning and in the past through a priority coordination group with Hardin and the Big Horn County Commission. The lack of a tax base to meet daily operating costs has created a very real crisis situation for the community. Basic services are being met, in some cases, by others through default and some extensive assistance is needed.

Interestingly, many Lodge Grass residents went to work in the mines and left other jobs which created a need for replacements. However, it is unknown who and where the replacements came from. Perhaps they were other residents but it is unknown. A close relationship with state agencies is desired by the community, but the extent and nature of such a relationship is unsure. Perhaps assistance in the finding of solutions to the every day problems facing Lodge Grass will in the long run reduce future apparent dependence upon others including the Coal Board.







1 CLOSED MINES (1979)

2 BEARTOOTH COAL CO.



Carbon County,
Montana

1979

C A R B O N C O U N T Y

Carbon County has had a long history of Coal development. Not surprisingly, however, is the lack of current mining information. Notwithstanding, there is current exploration activity in some formerly abandoned mines near Bear Creek.

Though many problems of community development are surfacing in Red Lodge, general coal-related impacts are not evident. Considerable uncertainty surrounds the exploration activity and close scrutiny of these developments is vital.

B E A R C R E E K

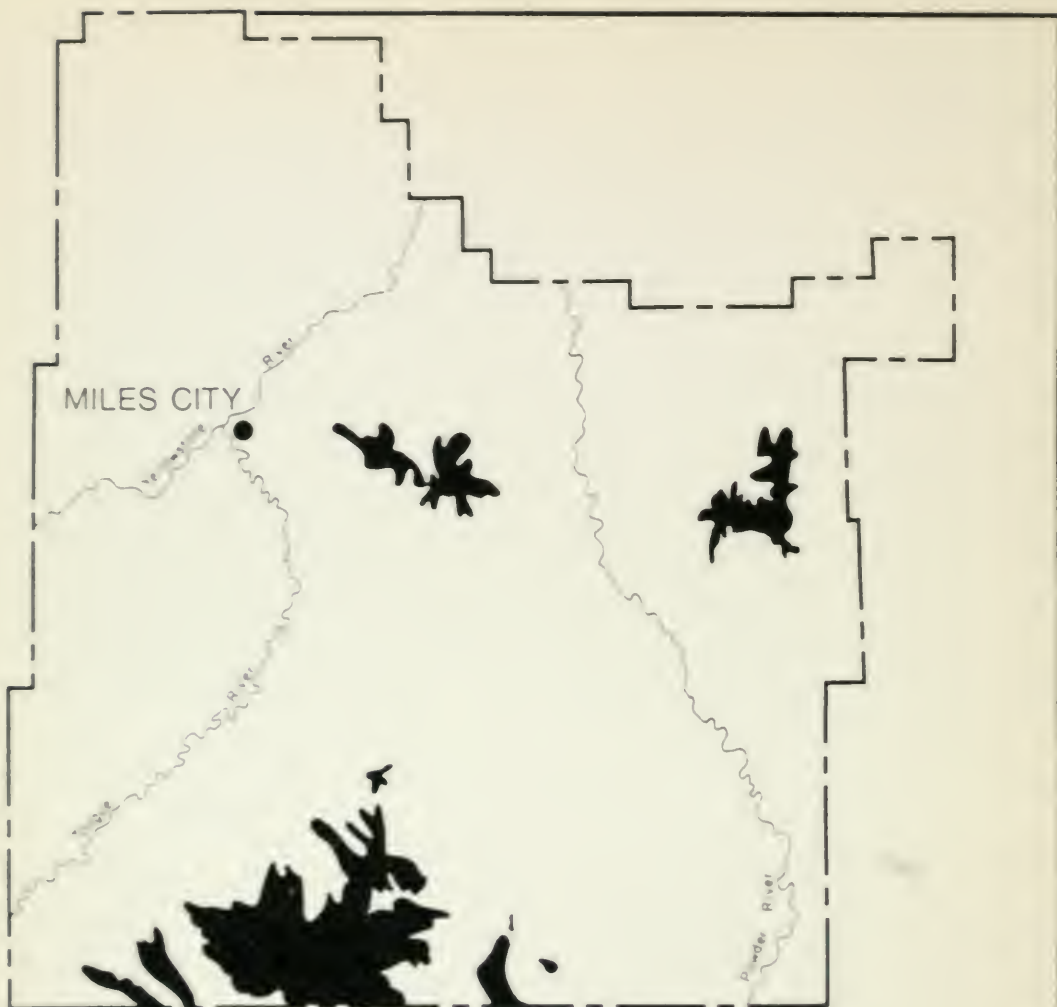
The Town of Bear Creek is not currently being impacted by coal development. Particular concern is expressed by local officials as to the uncertainties of mine development in light of the limited existing population. A total of twenty new people added to Bear Creek, for example, is a 30% direct impact. Close, continued liaison with the Coal Board is desired so reasonable advance notice of development can be addressed in planning. No assistance is anticipated at this time, but unexpected mine development would require considerable help.

R E D L O D G E

The City of Red Lodge is not now being impacted by coal development. The uncertainties of mine development are a real concern to city officials. If development does in fact occur, basic water services are of key concern. Currently the water system is incapable of meeting the existing needs adequately and with developing commercial and residential interests may well be overtaxed.

A desire on the part of city officials to maintain a close working relationship with the Coal Board has been expressed, particularly if the Coal Board can make any meaningful contact with the coal companies involved to obtain reliable information as to any future development.





BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



CUSTER COUNTY COAL DISTRICT

SHALOE MINE

INTERMOUNTAIN MINE

**Custer County,
Montana**

C U S T E R C O U N T Y

The coal impact in Custer County and more particularly Miles City is more of an indirect nature. However, as Colstrip 3 and 4 develop, the local units of government "feel" some impact will occur. These governmental units, including the schools, have had a difficult time verifying impact due to coal but coincidental population increases and decreases paralleled Colstrip 1 and 2 construction remarkably close. Likewise, various local development projects followed a similar trend.

Increased activity at Miles Community College during Colstrip 1 and 2 construction and the initial interest in upgrading skills in preparation for Colstrip 3 and 4 construction further indicate coal related impact.

The "Dominy" project and future mining of coal reserves in the southern portions of Custer County and throughout Powder River County will show some rather startling impacts in the area. None of this information is new, but the local units of government desire current and timely information in order to prepare themselves well enough in advance to meet the impacted growth when it does occur.

M I L E S C I T Y

Miles City is becoming a substantial urban center on the north-eastern fringes of the Powder River Basin. Some impact is evident in the booming economy and demand for housing in the area. Local officials are concerned about this development and desire to meet the impacts in advance and with knowledge. The uncertainties with the Western Energy Company Dominy project and future mining of coal reserves to the south have created a reluctance to orderly movement of private development for fear of "boom-bust" cycles.

The school system has been working hard to provide a hedge to adverse impacts and the city is moving ahead with utility extensions and road improvements. Additionally, the City and County governments have cooperated well in the establishment of priority needs. The City and County Comprehensive Plan is currently (1979) in the process of update approval. This updated plan should provide a sound basis for determining future capital, housing and service needs.

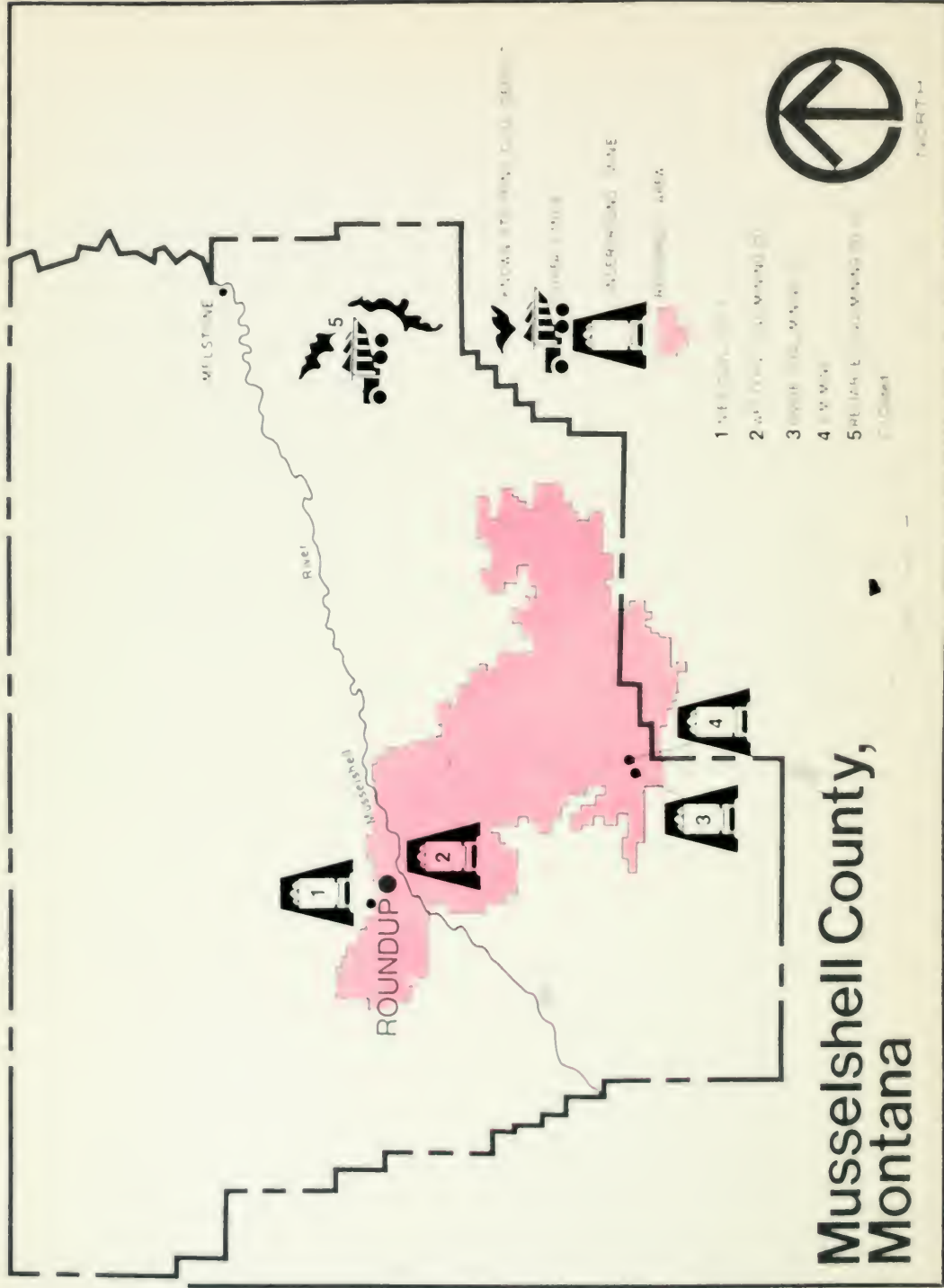
M I L E S C O M M U N I T Y C O L L E G E

Miles Community College may very well be the sleeping resource to bring many of the community service needs into proper focus. With current heavy requests for extension courses that cannot be fulfilled due to budget limitations, Miles Community College sits on a gold mine of expertise needed in the field.

Miles Community College is geographically well situated and has the facilities to provide training on campus and the ability to extend these programs into the impact areas as needed. As communities identify their needs for training and skill development for industry and government, Miles Community College is a resource that can be drawn upon.

Herein lies another type of community assistance, the training Circuit Rider.





Musselshell County, Montana



1967-1968

1. Lighthouse
2. Lighthouse
3. Lighthouse
4. Lighthouse
5. Lighthouse

M U S S E L S H E L L C O U N T Y

Musselshell County, has a rich heritage of coal mining. Several currently closed mines and two additional operating mines in the Bull Mountain Field have provided past impacts in the area from Melstone to Roundup. At the present time, Louisiana Land and Exploration Company is exploring the possibility of renewed mining activity. As developments occur in the Bull Mountain Field, the Coal Board should monitor the activities very closely.

Though there are shortages in housing and other amenities, the county population is at a current level below 1940 figures. However, the population increase from 1970 to 1977 reflects the second highest net change in all of the coal impact areas, 23.9%, second only to Rosebud County.

Local officials have expressed clearly they "do not want happening to them what has happened to Forsyth" as to a late start in meeting the impact from coal development. The community - schools, City of Roundup, County, planners and citizens - want to be prepared in advance to meet future impacts.

R O U N D U P

Roundup and vicinity are facing many unknowns in the areas of housing, commercial development, utility and school needs. Existing pressures in meeting current municipal services and utility extensions are straining local resources. With all of the unknowns and challenges before them, the community basically says - "Let us know what is happening - how it is going to affect me and my family - then we can deal with it (the future)."

If a "Circuit Rider" is created, the people in Roundup see its role:

- a) to advise the community;
- b) make such suggestions as "how to";
- c) assist in preparing the community for the future through Ordinance and Code suggestions;
- d) share with the community the experiences of others in similar circumstances;
- e) to advise the Coal Board as to on-site knowledge of local problems and situations.

It should be noted that Roundup officials have appreciated the assistance that the several state agencies have provided but feel that this "in field" assistance is something the Coal Board, Department of Community Affairs, or "whoever" should provide on a more regular basis.





100 FT 14



KNOWN TO GOVERNMENT

SURFACE MINE

UNDERGROUND MINE

1 DOG, TRUCK MINE

**Powder River County,
Montana**

P O W D E R R I V E R C O U N T Y

Powder River County officials seem in a good position to meet their current needs. Road maintenance and upgrade is needed in some areas of the county as an on-going program. The county would be very desirous of more definitive information regarding mine development to enable the county to allocate their priorities and resources to meet developer's timetables.

Good comprehensive planning is being accomplished, however, some very basic assumptions are having to be used pertaining to the future growth and impact requirements. Consequently, to place reliance upon the timetables developed is difficult and has created some apprehension by local officials to address the impact needs in a timely manner from their own resources.

B R O A D U S

Broadus will be a focal point of impact when the Powder River reserves are mined. In addition, heavy impact is expected locally when additional mines in southern Rosebud County are opened. A desire for close coordination with the Coal Board, Department of Community Affairs and other State agencies is evident.

A concern for lack of tax base to accomplish the task of meeting anticipated needs is foremost in Broadus officials' minds. Thus, a desire for regular and "continuing" assistance in facing the future is expressed. Broadus is interested in good programming to the extent of accepting the facts of the "boom-bust" cycle and preparing for each of its impacts.



64J

4

12

Rosebud

FORSYTH

Yellowstone River



KNOWN STRIPPING COAL DEPOSIT

SURFACE MINE

UNDERGROUND MINE

12

SCHOOL DISTRICT



NORTHERN CHEYENNE INDIAN RESERVATION

1

WESTERN ENERGY CO. COLSTRIP MINES

2

PEARBODY COAL CO. BIG SKY MINE



COLSTRIP 1, 2, 3, 4 ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANTS

Colstrip

Tongue River

LAME DEER

19

ASHLAND



ROSEBUD COUNTY

Rosebud County,
Montana

R O S E B U D C O U N T Y

Rosebud County has probably received the most direct impact from general coal development in the past ten years. With the development of Colstrip 1 and 2 and the pending construction of Units 3 and 4, it is expected the greatest coal impacts of the next five years will also be located within Rosebud County. Additionally, the proposed Nance Mine between Birney and Ashland will have significant further impact. The County Commissioners are very concerned about impact in the Birney area.

All in the county are appreciative of the assistance given by the Coal Board and in general feel comfortable in meeting the future impacts as they develop. The greater concerns of the County officials are in the area of road development and helping the smaller communities. These small communities will receive the brunt of coal impact and through cooperative efforts some of the adverse impact may be lessened. Through an update of the County Comprehensive Plan, the area will qualify for additional assistance through several Federal impact funding sources.

One of the more visible of the "unseen" problems is in the area of solid waste, including junk vehicles. Though a basic program has been instituted, operational costs of disposal and the logistics of collection presents a real challenge.

A S H L A N D

Ashland is an unincorporated town with a Water and Sewer Board as the only "local" entity involved with local development. A local private Mission is limited in what it can provide for the community and the whole area is limited in its available resources to meet community needs. A water and sewer system was built with initial funding from sources other than the Coal Board, however, some repair work was needed due to flood caused damage and the Coal Board assisted. Due to lack of adequate numbers of hook-ups, further financial assistance was rendered to make payments on the original loan.

Several factors are evident here. First the system, though needed, was built too soon to a size that is not affordable; second, adequate construction inspection was lacking, allowing, according to the district, some lines to be laid directly on rock and not properly bedded in gravel which may well lead to extensive repair or corrective work in the future; and thirdly, a definite need to obtain a closer liaison with other State agencies to assist in the manner in which hook-ups occur, whether or not tie-ins can be required and if there is financial assistance available for the elderly.

The Water and Sewer Board has a desire to help the community but is terribly frustrated because of the lack of current community involvement. They desire considerable help but do not know where to start and more particularly, what to expect and when. This type of concern was also expressed by a number of Ashland area citizens talked to and seemed to be a real focal point where the Coal Board could assist.

C O L S T R I P

Colstrip, currently, an unincorporated company owned townsite, is laboring with many facets of development. Incorporation and the development of an adequate tax base, Units 3 and 4 development, housing, water, sewer, roads, medical, schools, and recreation are all current, critical and bothersome projects. A real sincere desire for close, regular, involvement with the Coal Board and other State agencies is evident as the community addresses these problems.

Several immediate practical problems exist: Can the Highway Department do something soon regarding the dangerous, heavily traveled State Secondary Highway No. 315 - from Colstrip to Interstate 94 - before peak Units 3 and 4 construction is reached in 1981? Can a doctor be found? Where are school teachers to live? How to address the housing needs for the multitude of State and Federal government workers showing up in town? If Colstrip is to be incorporated, will there be adequate projected tax base to pay for the operational needs of a city?

Continuing regular liaison is desired now with the Coal Board in addressing the immediate expansion programs. It is sincerely "felt" that if the bulk of the impact problems can be addressed here at Colstrip, many adverse impacts upon other communities may well be lessened or alleviated.

F O R S Y T H

Forsyth has gone through one phase of impact development and feels it has learned many valuable lessons and is willing to share some of these lessons with others. Officials are unsure that any regular assistance from the Coal Board would be beneficial in light of this past experience, however, regular information flow would help. This latter is particularly true in obtaining information from the railroads because of the added impact of railroad crews coming into the area.

Great appreciation is felt for past Coal Board assistance and as future impacts become identified, they will probably again file applications for consideration. Forsyth is beginning to identify other areas of needs, such as recreation, that must be met from some resource. Currently they are unsure how these will be funded. Another point has been made, nearly all of the available land within the current city limits has been filled, leaving future growth considerations outside the existing municipal boundaries.

The City of Forsyth would like the Coal Board to better understand the equipment and other capital needs and priorities to enable the Coal Board to be more responsive to the total community impact.

F O R S Y T H S C H O O L S

The school district has been assisted greatly to meet a very heavy student impact and feel their educational needs have been temporarily met with current development and pending applications. However, community social needs are becoming more and more apparent and should begin to be addressed in coordination with the City, County and School District. This has led some in the community to place great emphasis upon incorporating community needs within school facility designs.

L A M E D E E R S C H O O L S

Lame Deer Public Schools occupy the unique role in providing principle education needs to the Cheyenne Indian Reservation. The District is being strained with 1979 class enrollment outstripping the facilities available.

The Coal Board provided a grant to Lame Deer School District for the development of a Comprehensive Plan to assist the District in their pursuit of Federal funding for school facilities development.

As Colstrip 1 and 2 have developed and with the pending construction of Units 3 and 4, Lame Deer School District has an identified 8% direct impact upon their system. It is not difficult to project the impending challenge to the school as the new construction begins at Colstrip.

A keen desire is expressed for field contacts with the Coal Board on a continuing basis.

R O S E B U D S C H O O L D I S T R I C T

According to the school superintendent, most of the information the school district receives regarding coal development and its potential impact has been from television reports and occasional publications. Currently, the school buildings in Rosebud have plenty of room for student enrollments, but if the impact that is anticipated in the southern part of the District due to recent zoning changes occurs, some future help may be required. A real concern, however, is expressed that the tax base has become static and the operational costs of existing and future facilities may be difficult to meet as inflation continues to rise.

The District may very well need to look to co-operative enrollment with other Districts to lessen these operational expenses, thus creating another whole set of problems.





Treasure County,
Montana



NORTH

T R E A S U R E C O U N T Y

Treasure County has the ultimate problems of Coal development. They receive considerable impact from people moving in and basically no increase in their tax base to school, house and service these same people. According to the County Commissioners, the County is taxing at the maximum, roads are being torn up with heavy load traffic, crime has increased and equipment and operational needs cannot be met adequately.

Currently, the Comprehensive Plan is being updated and a good process of priority setting is well established. As Colstrip Units 3 and 4 are developed, a massive impact is expected, but the facts and figures are difficult to determine. Several new families have already (Fall 1979) moved in for Colstrip Units 3 and 4 construction and an appeal for considerable help in the Spring (1980) has been made by local officials.

The County Commission is unsure of any coal development in the southern portions of the county where coal deposits are known. If and when this mining occurs, some relief may be found by an increase in the tax base. In the meantime, Coal Board assistance has been appreciated and probably will continue to be sought. Having someone in the field to assist and advise is desirable, particularly in knowing first hand what is happening.

Y E L L O W S T O N E C O U N T Y - L A U R E L

No overall review was made of Yellowstone County, for this report. The Consultant's analysis was limited to the City of Laurel and its school system at the request of the Coal Board. Initial concern by local officials center around the validity of population and production statistics given the State. They feel this is terribly important because efforts to meet the impacts must be started two years in advance to place a community or a school in a position to absorb the impact.

A sincere effort to meet the local impacts is being made, however, Laurel officials note that "direct" impact areas receive some tax base to assist them in meeting capital as well as operational needs whereas an "indirect" impact area receives no tax base to help. Given these concerns, Laurel would like to have someone "in-the-field" to keep data flow, projections and timetables all synchronized.

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY NEEDS

S U M M A R Y

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>NO. OF DAYS PER MO.</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
BIG HORN	Hardin	1½	One <u>day</u> per month to work with the city and county in general is needed, however, <u>additional time</u> in the field - Spring Creek, Decker etc., <u>may be necessary and advise-able.</u>
	Lodge Grass	½	Currently, at least <u>one half day</u> per month is advisable - <u>more if possible</u> - many real resource inadequacies need to be addressed. <u>Per-haps coupled with extra one half day with Big Horn County</u> may be adequate at this time.
CARBON	Bear Creek	0	Bear Creek is in good condition for its current population. However, <u>if coal mine is in fact developed considerable help will be needed at once.</u> Keep close to mine develop-ment.
	Red Lodge	0	Currently, city needs a lot of help in <u>several areas</u> , but <u>no current real impact due to coal development would justify Coal Board assistance of this type at this time.</u> When mine determinations are firm - then assistance will be needed. Stay close to mine development.

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CUSTER	Miles City	0	The area could use <u>effectively</u> at least <u>one day per month</u> assistance, <u>but no current coal impact relationship warrants Coal Board support for this type of assistance</u> at this time.
MUSSELSHELL	Roundup	1	Currently in need of suggestions, advice and sharing of data with other communities. Have desire to be prepared in advance. <u>Area is being impacted now</u> , though it is difficult to put finger on specifics. Community <u>has desire for Coal Board to be aware of on-site problems and impacts.</u>
POWDER RIVER	Broadus	$\frac{1}{2}$	Currently could <u>adequately use one half day at least each month</u> . When impact is more imminent, considerable more assistance is advisable.
ROSEBUD	County Commission	1	<u>The local officials feel current concerns are in hand</u> , though help is needed in Birney and Ashland areas. Need some regular contact perhaps in conjunction with Forsyth City and Schools along with Rosebud Schools. <u>Suggest one day per month spread between each of these jurisdictions.</u>
	Ashland	1	<u>As an unincorporated community, Ashland has special needs.</u> Initially considerable time is needed to help the community. Burden will taper off until mine application is submitted

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			and then another period of heavy need for quite some time. <u>Because of the nature of their needs, not all should be spent in the field - considerable work with other agencies will be necessary, particularly the Department of Community Affairs.</u>
	Colstrip	1	Considerable liaison and assistance at this time would be valuable due to the immediacy of impact and its fall out to other jurisdictions. <u>Many concerns, if met early here, will lessen impact in other areas.</u>
	Forsyth City	-	See County Comment
	Forsyth Schools	-	See County Comment
	Lame Deer Schools	-	Periodic contact on a <u>drive through</u> basis would be beneficial for the Coal Board and the School. Keep close to impact analysis of coal development.
	Rosebud Schools	-	See County Comment
TRENTON	Hysham	1	Already receiving impact from Colstrip Units 3 and 4 though major construction has not begun. Have sincere desire to be involved with Coal Board through regular field assistance. <u>At least one half day</u>

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			<u>per month currently with more assistance in the Spring when construction begins</u> in order to assist the City and County in the field addressing problems of impact.
YELLOWSTONE	Laurel	0	Both the city and school district feel impact from the Burlington Northern Coal car maintenance shop and have desire for close liaison with the Coal Board. <u>However, due to the nature of assistance, Coal Board office help would probably suffice with periodic field visits. No regular Field Assistance is suggested at this time.</u> Keep close watch on future coal related developments.



